

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN REVIEW OF
CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION

Introduction

On November 8, 2006, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) received a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application for a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) from Rock Creek Dairy Leasing, LLC in Wells County. The application was submitted to comply with both the NPDES CAFO Permit Rule and the Indiana Confined Feeding Control Law. Notice is hereby given that IDEM is opening a comment period on the draft individual permit and application.

Application Details

The Rock Creek Dairy facility is an existing dairy operation, confining consists of one freestall confinement barn and a dry cow barn. Plans submitted detail an expansion by constructing an additional freestall barn and expand the existing barns to the operation to confine a total of 2,244 cows under an NPDES Individual permit. All the existing and proposed confinement barns have concrete floors. Manure /process wastewater from all the confinement barns will be vacuumed up and delivered to a liquid collection and storage system. The manure/process wastewater from the operation will be directed to either the concrete manure/process wastewater separator reception pit, the sand/manure settling channel, the existing concrete manure/process wastewater settling pit, a solid manure/ sand storage dewatering concrete pad and finally to a two-staged compacted clay liner earthen manure/process wastewater storage lagoon. All milking parlor wastewaters will be directed to the manure/process wastewater storage lagoon. The raw materials and feed storage area is designed to collect silage leachate and the storm water up to the 25-year, 24-hour rain event in a concrete pit and overflow into a compacted clay lined storage pond. Storm water from the dairy operation is handled by the existing storm water detention pond and a proposed earthen storm water detention pond. All manure and process wastewaters will be land applied by the permittee, a contractor under the control of the permittee, or distributed to other persons for land application or converting to compost. The milk chilling process utilizes groundwater and a non-contact cooling device. The non-contact cooling water will be collected for recycling as drinking water or to mist the cows for cooling purposes. Excess non-contact cooling water must be conveyed to an existing field drainage tile and not conveyed to any of the manure/process wastewater storage structures. The facility must be constructed and operated in accordance with the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Rule's (327 IAC 5-4-3 and 327 IAC 15-15) and Indiana's Confined Feeding Operation Rule (327 IAC 16).

Public Review and Comment

The draft permit is available for review in the Wells County Public Library, 200 West Washington Street, Bluffton, Indiana 46714, (260)-824-1612 and on IDEM's agency's web page at: <http://www.in.gov/idem/land/permits/notices/index.html>. The NPDES permit application and supporting documents is available in IDEM's public file room on the 12th floor of the Indiana Government Center-North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis Indiana 46204, during normal working hours.

Comments should be technical comments, which addresses compliance with 327 IAC 5-4-3, 327 IAC 15-15, and 327 IAC 16, which can be viewed at:
<http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T03270/A00160.PDF> Citizens should be reminded that some issues (odor, potential devalued property, and traffic concerns) are not within IDEM's jurisdiction. Rather, they are local zoning issues. Persons presenting comments are requested to submit one written copy of the comment and submit it to IDEM within 30 days after the publication of this notice to:

Daniel J Bruggen
Solid Waste Permits Section
Office of Land Quality
100 North Senate Avenue
MC 65-45, IGCN 1154
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

Concerns will be summarized and a document will be drafted in which a response will be given for each concern. A copy of the responsiveness summary will be mailed to each person who submits written comment if a complete, legible address is provided to IDEM with the comment.

Further Information

For further information please call Daniel Bruggen (317)-233-3554, Dennis Lasiter (317)-232-8732 or Jerome Rud (317)-232-7200.